MRAC Board Meeting 1/24/2000

The meeting was called to order at 6:55 at Tom's QTH, KF9PU.

Previous meeting minutes were read and approved as written. Tom, KF9PU asked that the $50.00 per month rental fee and the estimated cost to install the antenna's on the proposed new repeater site tower of $1000.00 be added to the November minutes. The secretary complied.

Treasurers report -- Total liquid assets with CD equals $ 7817.31. Ken, W9MOT also says that most members have been paying their dues on time this year. A red mark on your Chatter indicates that you are not current. February will be the last Chatter for those who have not paid.

Thanks were given to Tom for the use of his new QTH for the board meeting. And a discussion followed on the next board meeting site and future board meetings for the year 2000.

Tom's VEC report. And also input from John, KF9XL our testing VEC. The price for testing this year has been set at $6.65. Tom was asked by the NCVEC if we would like to comment on the new CW test format that will come out after April 15th. The board suggested that the format stay the same as it has been in the past. AES is building a separate area for us to do our testing since they rented out the area that we have been using these last several years. MRAC will be testing on April 8th during AES superfest.

Ken reported that the Christmas party made a little money for the first time in many years. The board was not looking for a profit, just to break even. Dave wants this years party committee to handle all the arrangements so the board does not have to occupy itself with the details of the party. The board realizes that a location will have to be reserved now or we will not find a place.

Dave discussed that he would like to try a new meeting format where the members talk directly to one another and not only listen to the board members up front. The January meeting will be our first try. He also suggested that we come up with a format to conduct our auctions. And we want to give the members a chance to auction their stuff for themselves once a year.

Dave also has to find a replacement for Ken who is resigning from his temporary duty of filling in as treasurer since no-one was elected to the post at the last election. We also discussed if we should replace Jerry KC9EV who died or wait until the next election in May. Dave will ask if anyone is interested in either post at the next club meeting.

Ken reports that the final expense on the club patches was quite high. We just about broke even. A total of 100 patches were ordered. We have about 40 left.

The clubs W9RH license will expire in a month. WB9LNU will be the new trustee of the license. He has an extra class license and this allows the club to use all amateur privileges during an event.

Dave asked if we thought we should still have a club table at various swapfest etc: We decided to have a new banner made and make an effort to find people to man the table and hand out club literature.

Pancho asked for all the club pictures in the history files so he can attempt to organize them and maybe identify some of the old timers on them.

New member ID badges will be given out at the February club meeting. You must come to a meeting to get one. A badge will not be printed for you if you have not paid your dues.

A discussion on club policy for future funerals, donations, sick list, get well cards etc: No decision on a new format or continue as we have been.

New repeater site. Is it worth it? The $1000 initial cost to put the antennas up etc: Who is going to be the technical crew? Do we need additional new hardware? Who will be the control operators? All these questions and to date no volunteers to do any of this. Plus very few members even try to get on the friday night nets. Big problem with no volunteers. Friday nets need topics and topic leaders.

The meeting adjourned at 9:34. Thanks again to Tom for the use of your QTH and the goodies.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim WB9LNU
Secretary

MRAC Board Meeting 2/23/2000

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved as written.

Treasurers report -- $3,103.02 Liquid and $ 8,103.02 Total with CD.
Ken, W9MOT also says that maybe Bob Hensiak, N9VTN my be interested in taking the Treasurers job.

Special thanks were given to Al, AA9XH for arranging the board meeting. The location of the March meeting has not been determined yet.

The club will be renting a table at the SEWFARS swap fest on March 12th. The Treasurer was authorized to order a 8' table.

Tom, KF9PU our data entry VEC informed the board that we will have a new CSCE and test after April 15th to reflect the new FCC rules. Tom is also looking for someone who would like to volunteer as a back-up Data Entry person in case he is not around after a testing session.

The board will make a repeater and net survey. Al will provide Pancho, KA9OFA with the survey info for the Chatter. The survey is to determine if the club should keep the repeater or sell it. Since almost none of the members use it. To make a super repeater out of it, with auxiliary receive site etc: would cost more money than we have at present. A new site alone may not be the only improvements needed. The repeater amplifier will have to be sold and a new one that is compatible with the new repeater will have to be purchased.

Del Clark, KA9ZMK donated a printer to the club. The board decided to keep it to print the mailing labels and badges etc: Matt, KB9PRC will have the badges at the next meeting. You must come to a meeting to receive your badge.

Ken, W9MOT has several club patches left. You can purchase them from Ken at the meeting. If you want to order one please send a S.A.S.E. plus $5.00.

We are still deciding on the QSL and business cards. The board will also decide on a new club hand out sheet, to be used at swap fest and other events. All members will receive a new roster every year in one of the Chatters.

The board will try to reduce some of the Chatter printing and mailing cost by providing a electronic Chatter. More on this to come.

The board is talking on possible future classes for Tech and General Class license. A place to have the classes is still in question.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40

Respectfully submitted,
Jim WB9LNU
Secretary

MRAC Board Meeting 3/27/2000

Previous meeting minutes were read and approved as written.
Ken, W9MOT, Treasurers report -- Liquid assets $ 3,622.27 Total with CD $8,622.27.
The clubs CD will pay it's interest in August.

All board officers and three directors are up for election in May. Nominations are due next month. All members are urged to volunteer to run for office. It's fun and you certainly will get to know more very nice people this way.

VEC News -- John, KF9XL reports that everything is under control. We have all the new exams ready and the new CSCE's and 605 forms. The last test session with the old test will be at AES Super Fest. Our VE program gave a Braille exam at the last session. This individual passed his Extra written and the 20 WPM code test. He has offered to become a VE for testing blind hams. He will create more and updated Braille test for us.
Tom, KF9PU, says that the FCC ULS system has expired. The FCC decided to come up with a new system now called CORS. John says this just shows that nothing is permanent - just wait a month and watch for the changes. There is a new 605 form also to replace the old 605 form.

Jim, WB9LNU, has completed the repeater coordination and WARS renewal forms. He will also be the clubs new trustee for the W9RH license. Jim has an Extra class license which allows all members to use all bands and frequencies when operating our club station at Field Day or any other event. This license is also used for the club repeater.

The clubs 2 meter repeater amp is for sale. $300.00 It takes a maximum input power of 10 watts and provides 100 watt output continuous. It has a 19" rack mount heat sink 10.5 inches tall. Runs on 12 volts DC. Was used for approximately 6 months. The clubs new repeater requires a amplifier that will handle 30 watts input instead of 10.

The board is hoping that most of the active members will take the time to answer the survey on the clubs repeater. The survey questionare is in the Chatter.

Dave, WB9BWP. our President reports that the club had a table at two of the latest area swap fest and we picked up several new members while there. Dave assigned various members with jobs to create a new flier for the club and a display that can be used at the club table. Jim, WB9LNU will create the history flier and Brian K[illegible]9LCQ has designed and will order the new club banner. Jim will make a mount for the new banner. Pancho made a motion and seconded by Jim to authorize $200 dollars to pay for the new club banner etc: The board members have donated most of the money required. Donations to this project by the members would also be

greatly appreciated.
A new members package will be created. It will consist of a member badge, roster, club history, welcome letter and of course a years subscription to the Chatter.

John, KF9XL, asked if we would consider a auxiliary group for junior members and try to develop a interesting way to get a few younger kids involved with the club. Exactly how we can do this is still open for mush discussion. Any ideas or volunteers to help with a project like this? Brian, KB9LCQ, says that there are several teen-agers on other repeaters asking lots of questions.

Field Day -- Jim will try to contact Fred Linn, W9NZF and see if the depot is available to the club this year. We need a Chairman for the event! The Chairman must organize the food which mostly consist of cold cuts, rolls and potato salads. Also donuts and goodies. And of course lots of cold drinks. The depot has a kitchen and a refrigerator. Also running water and a out house. The Chairman must also send in the log to the ARRL.

The May meeting will be auction night. Any member can sell their equipment for themselves or donate it to the club. You may set a minimum price on your equipment before it is auctioned off. The raffle table will also be open for small goodies and parts.

The board is still looking for a place to have classes. Both for Tech and General. A code class requires at least 8 weeks. We also need volunteer teachers!

The new roster for this year will be out soon. The roster will come in the Chatter to save on postage. Or, you can get one at the meeting. Brian will inform us when he is ready to issue them.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30. Thanks to Ken for the use of his QTH and all the goodies to eat.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim WB9LNU
Secretary

The May board meeting will be at Jim's QTH, WB9LNU.
The April board meeting is at Barbara's QTH, KB9TIV

MRAC Board Meeting 4/24/2000

Previous meeting minutes were read and approved as written.
Location of the May meeting at Jim's QTH and June meeting, Barb is checking site and reservations.

VEC news - John, KF9XL, will act as back up for Tom when Tom is on vacation. Kate has also volunteered to learn the data entry process. John also reports that testing and paperwork sessions went O.K. They had some trouble with accuracy on 3 people but every effort was made to clear it up.

Brian, K9LCQ, has purchased the clubs new banner. The final cost was $157.00. It looks great!

Tom, KF9PU, has offered to run for re-election as director.

Roger Zaun, W9UVV, told us that he will volunteer to help anyone who has questions about Amateur Radio. Dave, WB9BWP, will start an official volunteer list. John, KF9XL, suggested that we make Roger the Chairman of the volunteer help group.

The Chatter will be out via electronic mail. You will need Adobe PDF file reader to look at it.

The new club Roster will be out in the June Chatter.

The elections are in May. Five officers and 4 directors are needed. Plus one director to complete ~~Dick~~'s term. ~~Dick~~ resigned ~~for health reasons~~. Dave will appoint someone to this position.
Dick's Al Drolet
The club P.O. Box must be renewed in a couple months. We may choose a new location closer to one of the officers.

May is also the club auction night. The club will ask for 10% of the proceeds. The seller can set a minimum starting price.

The Board had a lengthily discussion on holding future classes for tech and general class license. We need a location and teachers.

The repeater survey says basically leave things as they are except add our old controller back on the system. And keep looking for a new location that will give the best coverage with the equipment that we now have.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00. Thanks to Barb for the use of her QTH and the goodies.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim WB9LNU
Secretary

MRAC Board Meeting 5/22/2000

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 at WB9LNU's QTH.
Treasurers report - $9472.12 including the CD and VEC funds.

Dave, WB9BWP requested that from this day forward, we keep the VEC funds totally separate from the MRAC funds are far as reporting the available cash that the club has to work with.

Ken, W9MOT, our parting treasurer, says that the post office box number will change to 250477. Since the number will change, we can move the box to a new location closer to one of the new officers.

The next board meeting will be at Johnny V's on 84th street. The July meeting will be at Dave's QTH. Matt will take the Aug. or Sept. meeting.

The electronic filing of the Chatter is still having the bugs taken out and some experimenting is still in order.

Auction night at the club meeting is Thursday. Buyers will pay the treasurer !0% of the sale, if the transaction is over $5.00.

This weekend will be the last VE test session until September.

Brian, K9LCQ, is trying to get a class room at WCTC so MRAC can teach classes. More on this later. Dick, WB9PTC will no longer be doing CW practice over the air on 2 meters. John, WB9PSE, our appointed board member for Al's position, recommended that the club make a certificate for Dick to thank him for all his hard work to teach CW classes. Dave will ask at the club meeting if anyone else is interested in teaching CW over the air on behalf of the club.

John , WB9PSE needs help with sending out the Chatters every month. He needs someone to help pick up the Chatters from the printer etc:

Field Day will come before the club meeting this year. Brian, K9LCQ will be the Chairman. Food will be served at 12:00. We need help to set up at 8:30 saturday morning.

Brian reports that the new club roster will be ready in June. Matt will make new badges every year and extra's if needed for someone who lost theirs. A new member package is being created that will include a badge, roster, welcome letter and the history of MRAC.

The MRAC web page host will be QSL.NET.

Dave, our president soon to be re-elected, sent a thank you letter to Ray @ AES for all the help at Super Fest.

The repeater has our original controller reinstalled. We are also running 150 watts instead of 30. For now the site is still at W9PWG's QTH. The search for a better site will continue. Price is the major issue concerning the new site.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 followed be a tour of Jim's son's airplane that is being restored in his garage.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim WB9LNU
Secretary

MRAC Field Day 2000

What a beautiful weekend we had! The temperature was just right and very few mosquitoes. Barbara, KB9TIV, gave us all a very special treat, hot food! Pancho, KA9OFA and John, WB9PSE had a solar charged station this year and it worked very well. The battery stayed at peek charge all the time during the day. Brian brought his tracking station again and we had two club stations. Several other brought their own stations and antennas. I want to thank everyone for helping with all the antennas and for keeping the place neat. We received a letter from Fred Linn, W9NZF thanking us for keeping the place in one piece and a invitation to come back again next year. We also received some nice E-Mail and letters from our members that they had a nice time.

Jim WB9LNU

MRAC Board Meeting 6/26/00

Treasurers report -- $2,268.85 plus our CD. Total $7,784.91 plus moneys in the VEC fund. The club CD will mature in August. The clubs bank account has 4 authorization names on it. Ken, Les, Dave and Jim. Ken, W9MOT also reports that he has only 4 club patches left. If you want one, ask quick!!!

The next board meeting locations will be as follows -- Matt in July, ~~John~~ Jim in August, ~~Jim~~ John in September and Dave in October.

Brian, K9LCQ has the new club roster ready. It will be included in the next Chatter. He will try to hand out as many as possible at the meeting and mail the rest.

The treasurer has renewed our P.O. Box for $64.00

Tom's VEC report -- John, KF9XL can do the electronic filing now as a back up to Tom. Tom, KF9PU will be attending the NCVEC conference this year on July 21st. The next MRAC sponsored test session will be at the end of September.

The club Chatter will be mailed only to the people that do not want to receive it electronically. Next year there will be only 8 Chatters. One about every 6 weeks. This will bring the cost of the Chatter in line with the dues that we collect every year. There will be a list of all meeting dates in the Chatters for the whole year. Every year there will be one Chatter that is mailed to everyone because it includes the club roster.

Brian, K9LCQ is checking on the availability of a classroom at WCTC. A minimum class size of 7 will be required before we will organize a session. CW classes will be taught over the air.

Class start date and length is yet to be determined. Dick, WB9PTC may do another CW class over the air.
The clubs repeater will stay where it is until we find a free location more centrally located in the city. Paying rent for a repeater site is not an option at this time due to lack of use and funds.

The meeting adjourned at 8:54.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim WB9LNU
Secretary

MRAC Board Meeting 7/24/2000
Thanks to Matt for having us!!
Next Board meeting will be at Jim's QTH

All are present at the meeting. Previous meeting minutes were read and approved as written.

The clubs old P.O. Box is now closed. Mail will automatically go to the new box for one year. The new box number is 070695 (more info will be in the next Chatter.)

Treasurers Report -- No report as yet. The transfer of files are still is process between Les and Ken.

Roster -- The board discussed if updates during the year are in order or just a mention of any new members in the Chatter will suffice. All new members will be listed in the Chatter along with their address and phone number so all members can up date their roster.

Tom reported that the NCVEC Conference was interesting. They would like to establish a nation wide standard for the code test. Use the Farnsworth method with 13 to 15 wpm characters and 5 wpm spacing. The written test will have fill in the blank instead of multiple choice. Also one minute of perfect copy is acceptable. Must get 7 out of 10 questions right. The new rules will take effect on 7/1/2001. The new extra class question pool will be out by 7/1/2002. The FCC also wants to start their own numbering system called CORES by next summer. All communication with the FCC must include this new I.D. number. Pancho will put more info in the Chatter on this subject.

Brian -- No word on classes at WCTC as yet.. Brian is trying to organize classroom space.

Discussion about changing the meeting day to avoid conflict with other club meetings. The Board decided that our meeting date of the last Thursday of the month has been will established and shall remain as it is.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim WB9LNU
Secretary

MRAC Board Meeting 8/28/2000

Previous meeting minutes were read and approved as written.
Treasurers report -- Total liquid assets $2176.79

Next Board meeting at John Merkil's QTH.

Dave has asked the treasurer to have a complete accounting of all money spent this year so that we can formulate a budget for next year. The Board will start work on next years budget at the October meeting.

All board members are present except Matt.

VEC -- John is going to have new tapes made for the CW testing sessions. The tapes will be made according to the new NCVEC conference guide lines. He has also made two new written test for the visually impaired. With large print. At this time he has enough volunteers to administer the test, but new volunteers will always be welcome.

Dave reports that E-Mail comments have been generally good on the new electronic Chatter.

Brian inform us that we must reserve the room at WCTC ASAP we can always cancel the room if the class size does not pan out. The start date for classes will be October 14th. There will be six classes. The last class will be November 18th. The test will be given on November 25th.
The classes will be from 9 to 12 on Saturdays. Wednesdays will be the tentative backup date should we not be able to reserve a room for Saturdays. The charge for the class is yet to be determined.
Along with classes we need a volunteer to start a code class over the air. Since code takes longer to learn than the written material, we need to start A.S.A.P. Written classes will approximately 2 hours long each. The General class will be taught first. Info will be available on the MRAC Web site as plans progress.

The repeater is in the process of being moved to a new site. Jim has removed the repeater form Ed Wille's house. Dave and Matt will set up the repeater at the new site.

The Christmas party -- Vern needs help with the details of the party. Badges etc: The Board will establish a price to cover all the expenses based on input from Vern and his volunteers. We will have the party application in the Chatter. The volunteers also need to arrange for music or Christmas CD's at the party. Jim will bring the PA system.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim WB9LNU , Secretary

MRAC Board Meeting 9/25/2000

Previous meeting minutes were read and approved as written.
Treasurers report -- Total liquid assets $2,893.72 plus the club CD.
Dave, WB9BWP, reminded the Treasurer that next month will be the annual budget meeting and to be sure to have all his figures ready.
Special thanks to John, WB9PSE, for the use of his QTH for the meeting. The next board meeting will be at Dave's QTH.
Dave has instructed the secretary to purchase tickets for the 91 Hamfest and the West Allis Fest after approval form the board. Motion was approved.
John. KF9XL, says that he has the new 5 wpm CW tapes ready for VE testing. The tapes are in the new format established by the NCVEC's. Watch for testing rules and dates in the MRAC Chatter.
In November, MRAC will have a class for the Tech license held at AES. Exact times and dates will also be in the Chatter. The code practice will be over the air. Volunteers are still needed. The books needed for classes will be for sale at AES. $15 for the class and free membership in the club for one year if you pass the test.
Brian K9LCQ, has created a new member renewal form, much simplified from previous forms. The new member form and renewal form are ~~the same~~ (different).
The repeater is coming along. Coax must be installed at the new site before operation can commence. The repeater is on with temporary antenna's.
The Christmas party details were discussed and the Board decided to bring the details to the members at the Thursday meeting. This will establish the price per person. The estimated cost per person will be 19 to 20 dollars.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim WB9LNU
Secretary

MRAC Board Meeting 10/23/2000

Previous meeting minutes were read and approved as written.
Treasurers report -- Total liquid assets $2111.60 plus the club's CD.

Notice to Board Members -- The November meeting will be a Matt's QTH. The January meeting will be at Ken Eggerts

Matt -- The Thursday club meeting will be about antenna's.

The board has agreed to make a $100.00 donation to Redemption Church to help them by extra microphones in the near future.

Jim WB9LNU has offer to donate the flowers for the club Christmas party. Ken has offered to help with the name badges. We still need volunteers to help with other small details at the party.

The November board meeting will be mainly on creating a budget for next year. The Chatter cost the club about six and a half cents per page. The Board has decided to order 100 copies from now on instead of 200. The E-Mailing of the Chatter has reduced both our printing cost and postage. Also a reminder that next year there will be one Chatter every 6 weeks instead of four.

Dave and Matt say that the repeater is in the process of being installed in the new location. Should be done by the end of November.

Discussion on the up coming Tech classes and possible General classes at the beginning of the year.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim WB9LNU
Secretary

MRAC Board Meeting 11/25/2000

The meeting was called to order at 7:00
Minutes were read and approved as written.
Treasurers report -- Total liquid assets $2339.19 plus the club CD.

Notice to all Board Members. The January meeting will be at Ken's QTH.

Matt, KB9PRC, Plans to have the Thursday meeting program be on making 2 meter J poles out of 300 ohm twin lead. Every attempt will be taken to hold the business meeting short to give maximum time to building J poles. This lead into a discussion on improving the clubs meeting format. The main point was to provide greater attention to the member or guest who is delivering the program. Starting in January the business meeting will start at 7:00 instead of 7:30. All soda and treats will come after the program has concluded.

The January program will be on the repeater and it's new location.

All is ready for the Christmas party. Ken, W9MOT will take care of badges and Jim, WB9LNU will donate the flowers. Jim will also bring the PA system.

Club sponsored classes at AES was a success. Only 3 students on such short notice. More effort will be used to get the word out for the General class in March or April. Special thanks to Ken, KS4NX and his volunteer team for teaching the classes.

The Board, with much direction from Dave, our President, has balanced the club budget this year. We even made a few dollars. Dave will organize the data provided by Les, our Treasurer, and present it to the membership at the Thursday meeting. The money savings came in part from the E-Mail Chatters, the club auction, donations from members and the Board and the equipment donated to our raffles. At present the club dues will remain at $15.00.

Matt, KB9PRC, is looking for a member with a computer to take over making the club badges next year and also distribute the badges to the members.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20. Thank you Matt for the use of your QTH.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim WB9LNU
Secretary